

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine, comprising:

(i) a display device on which a plurality of symbols are arranged;

(ii) a liquid crystal display device disposed in front of the display device, including a transparent display region for transparently displaying the symbols arranged on the display device;

(iii) a liquid crystal shutter display device disposed between the display device and the liquid crystal display device, including:

a display shielding unit provided at a position corresponding to the transparent display region of the liquid crystal display device, the display shielding unit being controlled to enter a shielding state under a predetermined condition, so as to shield display of the symbols arranged on the display device and transparently displayed on the transparent display region of the liquid crystal display device; and

(iv) a controller, the controller being configured to:

(a) determine the plurality of symbols arranged on the display device;

(b) control the display shielding unit of the liquid crystal shutter display device to enter the shielding state so as to prevent the transparent display region of the liquid crystal display device from transparently displaying the plurality of symbols arranged on the display device, in a case where arrangement of a predetermined symbol combination on the display device is determined as a result of the process

(a);

(c) arrange the symbols determined in the process (a) on the display device;

and

(d) display a specific image on a display region of the liquid crystal display device including the transparent display region in which the display of symbols arranged on the display device in the process (c) is shielded by the display shielding unit in the shielding state under the control in the process (b), wherein:

the liquid crystal shutter display device is made up of a normally white liquid crystal panel for maintaining a transparent state with a voltage not being applied; and the controller controls the display shielding unit of the liquid crystal shutter display device so as to change over from the transparent state to the shielding state, by applying the voltage when process (b) is performed.

9. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to Claim 8, wherein:

a special prize-winning combination is not established by the predetermined symbol combination in the process (b).

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

(i) a display device on which a plurality of symbols are rearranged;

(ii) a liquid crystal display device disposed in front of the display device, including a transparent display region for transparently displaying the symbols arranged on the display device;

(iii) a liquid crystal shutter display device disposed between the display device and the liquid crystal display device, including:

a display shielding unit provided at a position corresponding to the transparent display region of the liquid crystal display device, the display shielding unit being controlled to enter a shielding state under a predetermined condition, so as to shield display of the symbols arranged on the display device and transparently displayed on the transparent display region of the liquid crystal display device; and

(iv) a controller, the controller being configured to:

(a) determine the plurality of symbols arranged on the display device;

(b) determine a degree of shielding of display of the symbols arranged on the display device and transparently displayed on the transparent display region of the liquid crystal display device, in a case where arrangement of a predetermined symbol combination on the display device is determined as a result of the process (a);

(c) control the shielding state of the display shielding unit of the liquid crystal shutter display device, in accordance with the degree of the shielding of the display of the symbols with respect to the transparent display region, the degree being determined in the process (b); and

(d) arrange the symbols determined in the process (a) on the display device),
wherein:

the liquid crystal shutter display device is made up of a normally white liquid crystal panel for maintaining a transparent state with a voltage not being applied; and

the controller controls the display shielding unit of the liquid crystal shutter display device so as to change over from the transparent state to the shielding state, by applying the voltage when process (c) is performed.

12. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to Claim 11, wherein:
the controller is further configured to:

determine, in the process (b), the degree of the shielding of the display of the symbols arranged on the display device and transparently displayed on the transparent display region of the liquid crystal display device, in accordance with type of the predetermined symbol combination determined in the process (a), in a case where arrangement of the predetermined symbol combination on the display device is determined as a result of the process (a).

13. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to Claim 11, wherein:

a special prize-winning combination is established by the predetermined symbol combination in the process (b).

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

(i) a display device on which a plurality of symbols are arranged in a plurality of columns;

(ii) a liquid crystal display device disposed in front of the display device, including a plurality of transparent display regions for transparently displaying the symbols arranged on the display device;

(iii) a liquid crystal shutter display device disposed between the display device and the liquid crystal display device, including:

a plurality of display shielding units provided at positions corresponding to the transparent display regions of the liquid crystal display device, the display shielding units being controlled to enter a shielding state under a predetermined condition, so as to shield display of the symbols arranged on the display device and transparently displayed on the transparent display regions of the liquid crystal display device; and

(iv) a controller, the controller being configured to:

(a) determine the plurality of symbols arranged on the display device;

(b) control a respective one of the display shielding units of the liquid crystal display device to enter the shielding state ~~in chronological order~~, so as to:

sequentially arrange the plurality of symbols in the plurality of columns on the display device, ~~in chronological order~~, in accordance with a predetermined order stored in a memory, and

shield the display of the symbols being arranged on the display device, ~~in chronological order~~, in accordance with the predetermined order stored in the memory,

in a case where arrangement of a predetermined symbol combination on the display device is determined as a result of the process (a), wherein:

the liquid crystal shutter display device is made up of a normally white liquid crystal panel for maintaining a transparent state with a voltage not being applied; and

the controller controls the display shielding unit of the liquid crystal shutter display device so as to change over from the transparent state to the shielding state, by applying the voltage when process (b) is performed.

16. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to Claim 15, wherein:

a special prize-winning combination is established by the predetermined symbol combination in the process (b).

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A gaming machine comprising:

- (i) a rotary reel on which a plurality of symbols are arranged;
- (ii) a flat display device disposed in front of the rotary reel, the flat display device for transparently displaying the symbols arranged on a surface of the rotary reel, the flat display device for electrically displaying an image; and
- (iii) a controller for performing a lottery for every game, the controller for displaying a result of the lottery on the rotary reel based upon the result of the lottery, the controller for awarding payout in accordance with the result of the lottery, wherein:

a normally white liquid crystal shutter display device for maintaining a transparent state with a voltage being not applied is interposed between the rotary reel and the flat display device in order to appropriately shield transparent display of the symbols arranged on the rotary reel.